

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6372

DEPT FOR EUR/CE, SCA AND VO

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CSCE, CVIS, CPAS, GE, US (BRUECKNER, CHRISTLE  
NICHOLS AND FAMILY)

SUBJ: GDR HUMANITARIAN CASE: "SECOND LIST": CHRISTLE NICHOLS  
BRUECKNER AND FAMILY

REF: A) BERLIN 5469; B) BERLIN 6190 PARA 3.A

1. ON JULY 27, MRS. BRUECKNER VISITED THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS  
HER CASE. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE REPEATEDLY CONTACTED THE  
LEIPZIG AUTHORITIES SINCE MARCH, 1976 WITH NO RESULT.

2. SHE REPORTED, HOWEVER, A CURIOUS NEW TONE IN THEIR MOST  
RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SUGGESTING IN-  
FERENTIALLY REPAYMENT OF DR. BRUECKNER'S BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY  
EDUCATION COSTS AS THE PRICE FOR RELEASING THE FAMILY. IN  
EARLY JULY, A MS. BOESE IN THE LEIPZIG DISTRICT GOVERNMENT  
RESPONDED TO THE BRUECKNER'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DELAYS IN  
THEIR CASE AS WELL AS THE ON AGAIN-OFF AGAIN CHARACTER OF  
DR. BRUECKNER'S EMPLOYMENT (A CONSTANT FORM OF HARRASSMENT  
SINCE THEY BEGAN TRYING TO LEAVE THE GDR IN 1969) BY NOTING  
THAT HIS EDUCATION HAD "COST THE STATE" MARKS 40,000.  
BOESE SAID THEY (THE AUTHORITIES) "FIGHT FOR EVERY GDR  
CITIZEN WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION" AND THEN ASKED IF THE  
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BRUECKNERS HAD A LAWYER IN THE FRG. THE BRUECKNERS BELIEVE

THIS MAY ALL BE A HINT THAT RELEASE CAN BE ARRANGED FOR A  
MARK 40,000 PAYMENT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE EMBASSY HAS  
BEEN TOLD BY GDR APPLICANTS FOR EXIT PERMITS OF SUGGESTIONS  
OF A POSSIBLE GDR WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE THEM FOR MONEY.  
THE INQUIRY ABOUT AN FRG LAWYER IS PARTICULARLY SUGGESTIVE  
AS SUCH "RASOMINGS" ARE USUALLY ARRANGED UNOFFICIALLY  
BETWEEN GDR AND FRG/WEST BERLIN LAWYERS SUCH AS THE  
STANGE/VOGEL CHANNEL. EMBOFF (WOLF) MADE CLEAR TO MRS.  
BRUECKNER THAT THE USG WOULD NOT TAKE PART OR BE INVOLVED  
IN ANY WAYS IN SUCH PROCEEDINGS; SHE FOR HER PART SAID THAT  
SHE AND HER HUSBAND WOULD NOT "PAY OFF TO GET OUT" BOTH  
BECAUSE NEITHER THEY NOR HER FAMILY IN THE WEST HAD THE  
MONEY TO PAY SUCH SUMS AND BECAUSE THEY DISAPPROVED OF SUCH  
PAYMENTS IN PRINCIPLE.

4. WE BELIEVE THE GDR HAS STRUNG US AND THE BRUECKNERS  
ALONG FOR TOO LONG. THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO OUR NOTES;  
THE MFA HAS MET OUR ORAL INQUIRIES AT THE WORKING LEVEL  
WITH BLAND PROMISES TO PASS THEM ALONG TO THE RESPONSIBLE  
AUTHORITIES. QUITE ASIDE FROM THE HUMAN COSTS TO THE  
BRUECKNERS WHO HAVE LIVED HERE IN LIMBO FOR THE  
PAST SEVEN YEARS, THE GDR'S INACTION ON THIS CASE  
REVEALS BOTH THEIR HARSH EMIGRATION POLICY AN THEIR  
DISINTEREST IN BEING FORTHCOMING TO THE U.S. ON THESE  
CASES.

5. WE PROPOSE TO APPROACH THE MFA AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL  
(GRUNERT OR GEYER) ON THE CASE, POINT OUT THE AMERICAN  
CITIZENSHIP OF OUR OF THE FIVE PERSONS IN THE CASE, AND  
MENTION THE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST (SENATOR KENNEDY) IN  
IT. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SUGGEST TO THE  
SENATOR'S OFFICE THAT IT MAY WISH TO APPROACH THE GDR  
EMBASSY DIRECTLY.

6. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST - SENATOR EDWARD F. KENNEDY.COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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